



## Patrick LUNG Kong 龍剛 (1935.2.8–2014.9.2)

### Director, Actor

Born Lung Kin-yiu in Hong Kong, Patrick Lung Kong was of Anhui ancestry and his father was a male *huadan* (young female) in Cantonese opera. In 1957, through introductions by actress Ma Siu-ying, Lung appeared for the first time on the silver screen with *Crime of Passion in the Hotel* (1958). Chow Sze-luk, the film's director, gave him the stage name Lung Kong. The novice actor then signed with Shaw & Sons Ltd's Cantonese film unit, mainly playing villainous or supporting roles, such as in *Bride from Another Town* (1959), and *The Chase* (1960). Later on, he began to work under Chow as his assistant director.

In 1962, Lung decided to follow Chun Kim and became an actor at the sister studios Kong Ngee Motion Picture Production Company and Sun Ngee Motion Picture Production Company. In 1964, Chun set up International Art Productions Company and created the Mandarin feature, *The Big Circus*, on which Lung was the assistant director. He became both active in front of and behind the camera since then. Lung's formal debut as a director took place in 1966 with *Prince of Broadcasters*; its remarkable originality instantly made him a force to be reckoned with. His second project, *The Story of a Discharged Prisoner* (1967), is a realist, audacious portrayal of the struggles of ex-convicts. *Window* (1968) and *Teddy Girls* (1969) continued to experiment with unconventional themes, breathing new life into Cantonese cinema at that time. That said, he still made appearances in films, delivering exemplary performances in Chor Yuen's *The Man from Interpol* (1967) and *Winter Love* (1968).

With the advent of the 1970s, Cantonese films started to hit a lull, and Lung switched to making Mandarin films. His first entry was an adaptation from Albert Camus' novel, *The Plague*. Due to its political undertone, the film suffered heavy cuts before it was released in 1970 under another title—*Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*. Other famous credits include *My Beloved* (1971), which delves into women's sexual repression; social realist *The Call Girls* (1973); and *Hiroshima 28* (1974) which exposes the suffering of second-generation atomic bomb survivors in Japan. *The Call Girls* won the Best Direction of Social Drama Award at the 19th Asian Film Festival in 1973. In 1977 while attending the Tehran International Film Festival in Iran, Lung shot another film titled *Mitra. The Fairly, the Ghost and Ah Chung* (1979) was his last film as a director.

Lung immigrated to New York, USA in 1982, still occasionally appearing in films. Acting credits during this period include *Shanghai Blues* (1984), *Black Mask* (1996) and *The Wesley's Mysterious File* (2002), etc. He was awarded the 'Star Asia Lifetime Achievement Award' at the New York Asian Film Festival on 15 August 2014. On 2 September the same year, he passed away of sickness in New York.

---